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(Substitute Sheet)

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:
5 a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score
of output data representing a degree of preference;
a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score
received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);
an output unit (105) outputting data; and
10 a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination
of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said
preference score counting unit (103), wherein
said switch destination data determining unit (104) determines probability of data
to be said switch destination such that data of high preference score has high probability,
based on the result of counting of the preference score by said preference score counting
15 unit (103).
2. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said switch destination data determining unit (104) forms a switch order such
that data of which probability to be said switch destination is determined to be high
20 appears more frequently, based on the result of counting of the preference score by said
preference score counting unit (103).
3. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:
a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score
25 of output data representing a degree of preference;
a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score
received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);
an output unit (105) outputting data; and

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a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said preference score counting unit (103); wherein

5 said switch destination data determining unit (104) determines probability of data to be said switch destination such that data of low preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score by said preference score counting unit (103).

10 4. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said switch destination data determining unit (104) forms a switch order such that data of which probability to be said switch destination is determined to be high appears more frequently, based on the result of counting of the preference score by said preference score counting unit (103).

15 5. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:
a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing a degree of preference;

a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);

20 an output unit (105) outputting data;

a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said preference score counting unit (103); and

25 a preference score limit setting unit (106) setting a lower limit of preference score; wherein

said switch destination data determining unit (104) determines data having higher preference score than said lower limit set by said preference score limit setting unit (106) to be said switch destination, based on the result of counting by said preference score

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counting unit (103).

6. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:

a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score
5 of output data representing a degree of preference;

a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score
received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);

an output unit (105) outputting data;

a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination
10 of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said
preference score counting unit (103); and

a preference score limit setting unit (106) setting a higher limit of preference
score; wherein

said switch destination data determining unit (104) determines data having lower
15 preference score than said higher limit set by said preference score limit setting unit
(106) to be said switch destination, based on the result of counting by said preference
score counting unit (103).

7. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:

20 a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score
of output data representing a degree of preference;

a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score
received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);

an output unit (105) outputting data;

25 a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination
of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said
preference score counting unit (103); and

a new arrival information obtaining unit (108) obtaining new arrival information;

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wherein

said switch destination data determining unit (104) determines, when said new arrival information is obtained by said new arrival information obtaining unit (108), said new arrival information to be said switch destination.

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8. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7,
wherein

said preference score vote receiving unit (102) is capable of receiving a plurality of votes in accordance with degree of preference for one said output data.

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9. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7,
wherein

said preference score vote receiving unit (102) receives a vote of degree of preference including a negative vote representing low preference.

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10. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7,
wherein

said preference score vote receiving unit (102) receives a vote of degree of preference for the data being output at present by said output unit (105).

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11. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7,
wherein

said preference score vote receiving unit (102) simultaneously receives a vote of degree of preference for data other than data for which a vote has been received,
including same attribute as said data for which a vote has been received.

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12. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7,
further comprising

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a counting result reset unit (103) resetting the result of counting by said preference score counting unit (103).

5 13. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7, comprising:

in place of said preference score vote receiving unit (102), an output time measuring unit (102) measuring time of data output; wherein

said preference score counting unit (103) counts data preference score based on the output time measured by said output time measuring unit (102).

10 14. (Cancelled)

15 15. (Amended) The data output apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein

said output unit (105) successively performs a process of switching and outputting the data that is being output at present and data as said switch destination different from said data that is being output at present.

20 16. (Amended) A data output apparatus, comprising:

a preference score vote receiving unit (102) receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing a degree of preference;

a preference score counting unit (103) counting the vote of preference score received by said preference score vote receiving unit (102);

an output unit (105) outputting data;

25 a switch destination data determining unit (104) determining a switch destination of data being output by said output unit (105), based on a result of counting by said preference score counting unit (103); and

a data output time determining unit (110) determining time of data output by

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said output unit (105); wherein

said output unit (105) performs the process of switching and outputting the data that is being output at present and data as said switch destination different from said data that is being output at present, every time the time determined by said output time determining unit (110) has passed.

17. The data output apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said data output time determining unit (110) determines said time of data output by said output unit (105) based on the result of counting preference score by said preference score counting unit (103).

18. The data output apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said data output time determining unit (110) determines output time of data having higher preference score to be longer, based on the result of counting preference score by said preference score counting unit (103).

19. The data output apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said data output time determining unit (110) determines output time of data having lower preference score to be longer, based on the result of counting preference score by said preference score counting unit (103).

20. (Amended) A control apparatus communicating with a data output apparatus for controlling said data output apparatus, comprising:
a preference score vote receiving unit (202) receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing a degree of preference;
a preference score counting unit (203) counting the vote of preference score received by said preference score vote receiving unit (202);
a switch destination data determining unit (204) for determining a switch

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destination of data that is being output by said data output apparatus, based on a result of counting by said preference score counting unit (203); and

an output unit (205) outputting to said data output apparatus a control signal for switching data to be output by said output apparatus from the data that is being output at present to data as said switch destination different from said data that is being output; wherein

said switch destination data determining unit (204) determines probability of data to be said switch destination such that data of high preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score by said preference score counting unit (203).

21. (Amended) A data output method, comprising:

the preference score voting step (S201) of receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing degree of preference;

the preference score counting step (S202) of counting said vote of preference score;

the switch destination data determining step (S203) of determining a switch destination of data that is being output, based on the result of counting of said preference score; and

the data switching step (S205) of switching the output data from the data that is being output to data as said switch destination different from the data that is being output; wherein

in said switch destination data determining step (S203), probability of data to be said switch destination is determined such that data of high preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score in said preference score counting step (S202).

22. (Amended) A data output program product causing a computer to

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execute a data output method, the method comprising:

the preference score voting step (S201) of receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing degree of preference;

5 the preference score counting step (S202) of counting said vote of preference score;

the switch destination data determining step (S203) of determining a switch destination of data that is being output, based on the result of counting of said preference score; and

10 the data switching step (S205) of switching the output data from the data that is being output to data as said switch destination different from the data that is being output; wherein

15 in said switch destination data determining step (S203), probability of data to be said switch destination is determined such that data of high preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score in said preference score counting step (S202).

23. (Added) A control apparatus communicating with a data output apparatus for controlling said data output apparatus, comprising:

20 a preference score vote receiving unit (202) receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing a degree of preference;

a preference score counting unit (203) counting the vote of preference score received by said preference score vote receiving unit (202);

25 a switch destination data determining unit (204) for determining a switch destination of data that is being output by said data output apparatus, based on a result of counting by said preference score counting unit (203); and

an output unit (205) outputting to said data output apparatus a control signal for switching data to be output by said output apparatus from the data that is being output at present to data as said switch destination different from said data that is being output;

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wherein

said switch destination data determining unit (204) determines probability of data to be said switch destination such that data of low preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score by said preference score counting unit (203).

24. (Added) A data output method, comprising:
the preference score voting step (S201) of receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing degree of preference;

the preference score counting step (S202) of counting said vote of preference score;

the switch destination data determining step (S203) of determining a switch destination of data that is being output, based on the result of counting of said preference score; and

the data switching step (S205) of switching the output data from the data that is being output to data as said switch destination different from the data that is being output; wherein

in said switch destination data determining step (S203), probability of data to be said switch destination is determined such that data of low preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score in said preference score counting step (S202).

25. (Added) A data output program product causing a computer to execute a data output method, the method comprising:

the preference score voting step (S201) of receiving a vote of preference score of output data representing degree of preference;

the preference score counting step (S202) of counting said vote of preference score;

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the switch destination data determining step (S203) of determining a switch destination of data that is being output, based on the result of counting of said preference score; and

5 the data switching step (S205) of switching the output data from the data that is being output to data as said switch destination different from the data that is being output; wherein

10 in said switch destination data determining step (S203), probability of data to be said switch destination is determined such that data of low preference score has high probability, based on the result of counting of the preference score in said preference score counting step (S202).